

DRAFT OF A PROPOSED BILL
TO ESTABLISH A
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Reprinted from the MEDICAL RECORD, July 15, 1893.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE,
No. 19 WEST FORTY-THIRD STREET, July 12, 1893.

THE undersigned, a committee of the National Quarantine Committee of the New York Academy of Medicine, have been instructed to prepare a bill to be submitted to Congress, creating a Public Health organization in the General Government. With a view to harmonize conflicting views on the plan of organization, about which there is a diversity of opinions, in order to concentrate upon a single measure the efforts of all who are interested in securing the necessary legislation, we herewith tentatively submit the sections of a bill organizing a Bureau of Public Health, for the purpose of eliciting a full and free discussion of the subject before finally determining the precise form which the committee will adopt. While the committee believe that the plan submitted is more nearly in accordance with the opinions of those whose judgment and experience are most valuable, it is prepared to give due consideration to any modifications which may be proposed. The remaining features of the bill, which define the functions of the Bureau, will be submitted hereafter. All communications addressed to the Secretary of the Committee, Dr. J. H. GIRDNER, will be duly considered.

JOSEPH D. BRYANT, *Chairman.*
RICHARD H. DERBY.
EDWARD G. JANEWAY.
T. GAILLARD THOMAS.
DAVID WEBSTER.
STEPHEN SMITH.
J. H. GIRDNER, *Secretary.*



A Bill to establish within the Treasury Department a Bureau of Public Health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :

Section 1. That for the purposes of this Act the States and Territories of the United States be and are hereby grouped into districts, to be known as "The Sanitary Districts of the United States," as follows:

The Northern Sanitary District shall include the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.

The Northeastern Sanitary District shall include the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.

The Northwestern Sanitary District shall include the States of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and the Territory of Alaska.

The Eastern Sanitary District shall include the States of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The Western Sanitary District shall include the States of California, Nevada, Utah, and the Territory of Arizona.

The Southern Sanitary District shall include the States of Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee.

The Southeastern Sanitary District shall include the States of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina.

The Southwestern Sanitary District shall include the State of Texas and the Territories of Indian Territory, New Mexico, Oklahoma.

The Central Sanitary District shall include the States of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming.

Sec. 2. That there shall be established in the Treasury Department, under the direction and supervision of the Secretary thereof, a Bureau of Public Health, to consist of a Commission of fifteen, of whom eleven shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as follows, viz.: One Medical Commissioner from each of the "Sanitary Districts of the United States," provided in section one of this Act, and two commissioners at large; the compensation of the appointed commissioners, when actually engaged in the performance of their duties under this Act, shall be ten dollars per diem and reasonable expenses. The other four members of the commission shall be the Surgeon-General of the Army, the Surgeon-General of the Navy, the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service, and an officer, learned in the law, detailed by the Attorney-General from the Department of Justice; these four members shall receive no compensation.

Sec. 3. That the members of the Commission shall meet at such time and place as may be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, and organize by the election, from their own number, of a President who shall be one of the members at large, and who shall receive five dollars per diem, in addition to the ten dollars per diem provided in the last section, when actually engaged in the performance of his duties under this Act. The Commission may appoint a Secretary, not one of its number, and fix his salary at a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars annually. The Commission shall thereafter meet annually, at Washington, on the first Tuesday of October, and at such other times and places as the President of the Commission, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall designate.

Sec. 4. That there shall be an Executive Committee of the Commission, consisting of its President, the Surgeon-General of the Army, the Surgeon-General of the Navy, and the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service and the officer detailed by the Attorney-General. The Commission shall from time to time prescribe the duties of the Executive Committee, and may make all needful rules and regulations for its own control and for the guidance and discipline of all its officers and employees, and shall establish all rules and regulations for the government of national sanitation in all of its foreign and interstate relations, and special departments in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. That when, in the opinion of the President of the Commission the interests of the public health would be promoted by a conference of the Commission with the State Boards of Health of the Several States, or of any sanitary district or districts, he is hereby authorized to invite, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, said State Boards of Health, or such number thereof as he may designate, each to delegate one of its members to meet the Commission in conference at such time and place as he may appoint; the President of the Commission shall be the President, and the Secretary of the Commission shall be the Secretary, of any such conference; the delegate in attendance upon the conference from each State Board of Health shall be entitled to receive reasonable compensation for expenses for a session not exceeding three days, to be paid on vouchers provided by the Secretary of the Treasury.

